



Thrift Savings Plan BULLETIN

for Agency TSP Representatives

Subject: Thrift Savings Plan Open Season Information – May 15 through July 31, 2000

Date: April 26, 2000

The next Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) open season begins May 15 and ends July 31, 2000. The Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board will send the open season materials described below to agency central distribution points. The central distribution points should receive these materials by May 1.

Open Season Update. This Update “Something to Smile About!” replaces the Update issued for the last open season. Each central distribution point will receive a number of Updates approximately equal to the total agency work force. The shipments are in boxes containing 4,200 Updates. Some boxes containing fewer than 4,200 are being sent to accommodate smaller agencies or to complete shipments when the total number is not a multiple of 4,200. The Update does not have a stock number.

Poster. This open season poster “Something to Smile About!” replaces the poster that was issued for the last open season. The poster does not have a stock number, but it contains the open season dates.

Agency responsibilities. Agencies must distribute the Update to all employees eligible to participate in the TSP. Agencies should display the poster in highly visible areas, such as employee bulletin boards, elevators, cafeterias, hallways, and employee lounges.

Agencies must also distribute the *Summary of the Thrift Savings Plan for Federal Employees* and the TSP Election Form to all newly eligible FERS¹ employees and ensure that all

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¹ FERS refers to the Federal Employees’ Retirement System, the Foreign Service Pension System, and other equivalent Government retirement plans.

Inquiries: Questions about the open season or about information in the participant materials should be directed to the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board at **202-942-1460**. Questions about the distribution of the open season materials to agencies’ central distribution points should be directed to the Board at **202-942-1673**.

Chapter: This bulletin may be filed in Chapter 5, Open Season.

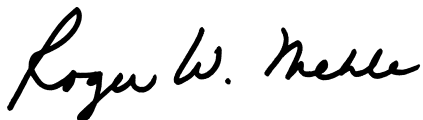
Supersedes: This bulletin supersedes TSP Bulletin 99-19, Thrift Savings Plan Open Season Information – November 15, 1999 through January 31, 2000, dated October 28, 1999.

other employees eligible to participate in the TSP know where they can obtain the Plan Summary and how to make a TSP election. If agencies need additional Plan Summaries or TSP Election Forms, they must order them by following the instructions contained in TSP Bulletin 95-1, Procedures for Obtaining Thrift Savings Plan Products and Forms, dated January 3, 1995. Please note, however, that these materials will be superseded after the close of this open season; new materials to reflect the changes to the TSP that will occur upon implementation of the new record keeping system will be issued beginning in August 2000.²

Change in open season dates. After the close of this open season, the dates of the TSP open seasons will change to October 15 through December 31 and April 15 through June 30. The corresponding election periods will then be the months of December and June, respectively.

Consequently, new FERS employees hired during the period January 1 through June 30, 2000, will become eligible to participate in the TSP the first full pay period in December. New FERS employees hired during the period July 1 through November 30, 2000, will become eligible to participate in the TSP the first full pay period in June 2001.³

Additional information. For more information about the TSP open season and other agency responsibilities, see TSP Bulletin 93-12, Thrift Savings Plan Open Seasons, dated May 6, 1993. The bulletin describes other materials agencies may use to inform employees of the benefits of the TSP and includes sample memoranda that agencies may use to announce the open season. Later this year, TSP Bulletin 93-12 will be superseded by a new bulletin containing updated information about TSP open seasons.



ROGER W. MEHLE
Executive Director

Attachments: Open Season Update
Open Season Poster

cc: Agency Central Distribution Points

² See TSP Bulletin 00-6, Processing Agency Submissions in the New Record Keeping System, dated March 30, 2000, for more information about the changes that will occur when the new record keeping system is implemented.

³ This will change if H.R. 208 is enacted this year. See TSP Bulletin 00-8, Pending Legislation To Allow Employees to Contribute to the Thrift Savings Plan Immediately Upon Appointment, dated April 24, 2000, for more information about H.R. 208 and the consequences of its enactment.